

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 NTIE-00 EB-08
FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01
/063 W

-----091884 132111Z /75

R 121545Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3969
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WARC, UR, US
SUBJECT: ITU - WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE,
GENEVA, 1979; US/USSR CONSULTATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 20693

1. PRESENT MESSAGE CONCERNS US/USSR TALKS ON 1979 WARC, HELD IN MOSCOW LAST WEEK. MISSION OFFICER PARTICIPATED AS MEMBER OF U.S. TEAM.
2. HOSPITALITY AND INTEREST SHOWN IN COURSE OF CONSULTATIONS SUGGEST SOVIETS ARE AS INTERESTED AS WE ARE IN SERIOUS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS LEADING UP TO 1979 WARC. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE UNDER FOUR HEADINGS: ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE; ALLOCATIONS; TECHNICAL; AND REGULATORY. IN EACH AREA, BASIC APPROACHES WERE PARALLEL, WITH MOST NOTABLE DIFFERENCES APPEARING IN HF ALLOCATIONS. SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT MFA VILLA AT 17 ULITSA ALEKSEYA TOLSTOGO, WERE THOSE LISTED REFTEL, EXCEPT THAT B.A. KOMAROV, CHIEF OF SECTION, AND G.A. KOROL'YEV, DEPUTY CHIEF, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, WERE ADDED, AND DOBROVOL'SKIY

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AND FROLAGIN DID NOT ATTEND.

3. ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE: SOVIETS AGREED GENERALLY WITH U.S. VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE BUT EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATION REGARDING SEPARATE COMMITTEE FOR "MISCELLANEOUS". BOTH SIDES AGREED ON NECESSITY OF SELECTING STRONG PERSONS AS CONFERENCE AND COMMITTEE

CHAIRMEN AND BOTH ENDORSED NEED FOR GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

4. ALLOCATIONS: SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES APPEARED AT HF, BUT THIS MAY BE DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO LIMITED TIME SOVIETS HAVE HAD TO STUDY CURRENT U.S. PROPOSALS, SOME OF WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN, OR WERE NOT FULLY EXPLAINED IN, EIGHTH NOTICE OF INQUIRY. IN HIGHER FREQUENCY BANDS, THE SOVIETS ARE MOST INTERESTED IN PROVISIONS FOR SATELLITE SYSTEMS, BUT HAVE NOT YET FIRMED UP THEIR POSITION. THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NOT REACHED INTERNAL AGREEMENT ON REQUIREMENTS FOR FIXED-SATELLITE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSING SERVICES ACCOUNTS FOR ABSENCE OF NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR THESE SERVICES IN SOVIET DRAFT TABLE. THEY APPEARED TO BE INTERESTED IN OUR VIEWS IN THESE AND OTHER AREAS. U.S. TEAM REVIEWED SEVERAL PROBLEM AREAS IN USSR DOCUMENT; SOVIET TEAM WAS RECEPTIVE AND AGREED TO STUDY THEM FURTHER.

5. TECHNICAL: DISCUSSION WAS QUITE BRIEF. SOVIETS PROVIDED SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS BUT ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED, AS IS U.S., TO RELY HEAVILY ON SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING THIS FALL TO RESOLVE TECHNICAL ISSUES.

6. REGULATORY: BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT BASIC PRINCIPLES IN PRESENT ARTICLES 9 AND 9A WERE SOUND BUT THAT REVISIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESIGNED TO SIMPLIFY AND CLARIFY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED SINCE ORIGINAL ADOPTION WERE WARRANTED, GIVEN EVIDENT DISSATISFACTION ON PART OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. U.S. TEAM FLOATED NOTION OF PROPOSING PANEL OF EXPERTS TO DRAFT REVISED ARTICLES 9 AND 9A FOR CONSIDERATION BY FUTURE WARC. BADALOV SEEMED RECEPTIVE, PROVIDED PROPOSAL WAS TREATED AS CONTINGENCY TO BE ACTIVATED MIDWAY THROUGH CONFERENCE AND ONLY IF NECESSARY.

7. THE U.S. TEAM WAS RECEIVED GRACIOUSLY BY USSR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION OFFICIALS. MINISTRY HOSTED DINNER FIRST EVENING AND RECEPTION FOLLOWING TALKS. DURING TALKS, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR GAVE RECEPTION AND U.S. TEAM (WITH DOD FUNDS) GAVE LUNCHEON FOR SOVIET OFFICIALS. MIXTURE OF SOCIAL AND BUSINESS CONTACTS THROUGHOUT WEEK PRODUCED GOOD RAPPORT WHICH BODES WELL FOR FUTURE WARC TALKS AND COOPERATION AT CONFERENCE ITSELF. SECOND ROUND OF TALKS IS ENVISAGED FOR SOME TIME IN SPRING IN WASHINGTON, FOLLOWED BY THIRD ROUND AT GENEVA DURING WEEK PRIOR TO CONFERENCE.

8. U.S. TEAM IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR EXCELLENT BACKSTOPPING
PROVIDED BY EMBOFF DAVID A. WEISZ.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA13671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780373-0031
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780978/aaaacmly.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a4e75b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 20693
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1473321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU - WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE, GENEVA, 1979; US/USSR CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ETEL, UR, US, ITU, WARC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4e75b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014